

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA  
Norfolk Division

STEPHEN E. BILENKY, ADMINISTRATOR  
OF THE ESTATE OF FRANK S. WRIGHT,  
DECEASED,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No.: 2:13-CV-345

RYOBI LTD., RYOBI NORTH AMERICA,  
INC. TECHTRONIC INDUSTRIES CO.,  
LTD., TECHTRONIC INDUSTRIES NORTH  
AMERICA, INC., RYOBI TECHNOLOGIES,  
INC., ONE WORLD TECHNOLOGIES, INC.,  
HOME DEPOT USA, INC., AND THE  
HOME DEPOT, INC.,

Defendants.

**ANSWER**

Defendant Ryobi Technologies, Inc. (“Ryobi Technologies”), by counsel, states as follows for its Answer to the Complaint filed by plaintiff Stephen E. Bilenky, Administrator of the Estate of Frank S. Wright, Deceased:

**FIRST DEFENSE**

1. Ryobi Technologies denies all allegations not specifically admitted herein.

**SECOND DEFENSE**

2. Ryobi Technologies denies that it is indebted to the plaintiff in the amount claimed or in any amount, for the reasons stated or for any reason.

**THIRD DEFENSE**

3. Ryobi Technologies specifically denies that it committed any act of negligence that was the proximate cause of the alleged injuries, wrongful death or damages.

#### FOURTH DEFENSE

4. Ryobi Technologies specifically denies that it manufactured, distributed or sold the mower that is the subject of this case.

#### FIFTH DEFENSE

5. Ryobi Technologies specifically denies that it made or breached any warranties associated with the product at issue that were a proximate cause of the alleged injuries, wrongful death or damages.

#### SIXTH DEFENSE

6. Ryobi Technologies avers that plaintiff's decedent was himself guilty of negligence proximately causing or efficiently contributing to the incident sued upon.

#### SEVENTH DEFENSE

7. Ryobi Technologies avers that any injuries, damages or losses alleged to have been sustained by plaintiff or plaintiff's decedent were the result of abuse or misuse of the product described.

#### EIGHTH DEFENSE

8. Ryobi Technologies reserves the right to rely upon any and all proper and provable defenses that may be revealed through investigation, discovery or the presentation of evidence and to amend this Answer at any time it be so advised.

#### ANSWERS TO PLAINTIFF'S SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS

9. In response to paragraph 1 of plaintiff's Complaint, Ryobi Technologies avers that the description of the nature of this action states a legal conclusion requiring no response. Ryobi Technologies is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or

falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 1 concerning plaintiff's status as Administrator; therefore, it denies those allegations and calls for strict proof thereof.

10. Ryobi Technologies is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 2 of plaintiff's Complaint; therefore, it denies those allegations and calls for strict proof thereof.

11. Ryobi Technologies is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 3 of plaintiff's Complaint; therefore, it denies those allegations and calls for strict proof thereof.

12. Ryobi Technologies is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 4 of plaintiff's Complaint; therefore, it denies those allegations and calls for strict proof thereof.

13. Ryobi Technologies is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 5 of plaintiff's Complaint; therefore, it denies those allegations and calls for strict proof thereof.

14. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 6 of plaintiff's Complaint and avers that Techtronic Industries Co., Ltd. is an entity based in Hong Kong.

15. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 7 of plaintiff's Complaint and avers that Techtronic Industries North America, Inc. is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Hunt Valley, Maryland.

16. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 8 of plaintiff's Complaint and avers that Ryobi Technologies, Inc. merged into One World Technologies, Inc. in December 2004 and was subsequently dissolved. Ryobi Technologies further avers that, when

Ryobi Technologies, Inc. was in existence, it was a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Anderson, South Carolina.

17. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 9 of plaintiff's Complaint and avers that One World Technologies, Inc. is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Anderson, South Carolina.

18. Ryobi Technologies is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 10 of plaintiff's Complaint; therefore, it denies those allegations and calls for strict proof thereof.

19. Ryobi Technologies avers that the allegations contained in paragraph 11 of plaintiff's Complaint either pertain to other defendants or state legal conclusions, thereby requiring no response.

20. Ryobi Technologies is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 12 of plaintiff's Complaint; therefore, it denies those allegations and calls for strict proof thereof.

21. In response to paragraph 13 of plaintiff's Complaint, Ryobi Technologies denies that it manufactured, distributed or put into the stream of commerce the mower that is the subject of this case. Ryobi Technologies is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the remaining allegations contained in paragraph 13 of plaintiff's Complaint; therefore, it denies those allegations and calls for strict proof thereof.

22. Ryobi Technologies is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 14 of plaintiff's Complaint; therefore, it denies those allegations and calls for strict proof thereof.

23. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 15 of plaintiff's Complaint.

24. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 16 of plaintiff's Complaint.

25. Ryobi Technologies is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 17 of plaintiff's Complaint; therefore, it denies those allegations and calls for strict proof thereof.

26. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 18 of plaintiff's Complaint.

27. Ryobi Technologies is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations contained in paragraph 19 (including subparagraphs a - c) of plaintiff's Complaint; therefore, it denies those allegations and calls for strict proof thereof.

28. In response to paragraph 20 of plaintiff's Complaint, Ryobi Technologies incorporates its responses to paragraphs 1-19 of plaintiff's Complaint as if fully set forth.

29. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 21 of plaintiff's Complaint that pertain to it. Ryobi Technologies avers that no response is required to the allegations contained in paragraph 21 of plaintiff's Complaint that pertain to defendants other than it.

30. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 22 of plaintiff's Complaint that pertain to it. Ryobi Technologies avers that no response is required to the allegations contained in paragraph 22 of plaintiff's Complaint that pertain to defendants other than it.

31. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 23 of plaintiff's Complaint, as they pertain to it. Ryobi Technologies avers that no response is required to the allegations contained in paragraph 23 of plaintiff's Complaint that pertain to defendants other than it.

32. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 24 of plaintiff's Complaint, as they pertain to it. Ryobi Technologies avers that no response is required to the allegations contained in paragraph 24 of plaintiff's Complaint that pertain to defendants other than it.

33. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 25 of plaintiff's Complaint, as they pertain to it. Ryobi Technologies avers that no response is required to the allegations contained in paragraph 25 of plaintiff's Complaint that pertain to defendants other than it.

34. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 26 (including sub-paragraphs a - n) of plaintiff's Complaint, as they pertain to it. Ryobi Technologies specifically denies that it designed, developed, manufactured, labeled, marketed, promoted or sold the subject mower. Ryobi Technologies avers that no response is required to the allegations contained in paragraph 26 of plaintiff's Complaint that pertain to defendants other than it.

35. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 27 of plaintiff's Complaint, as they pertain to it. Ryobi Technologies avers that no response is required to the allegations contained in paragraph 27 of plaintiff's Complaint that pertain to defendants other than it.

36. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 28 of plaintiff's Complaint, as they pertain to it. Ryobi Technologies avers that no response is required to the

allegations contained in paragraph 28 of plaintiff's Complaint that pertain to defendants other than it.

37. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 29 of plaintiff's Complaint, as they pertain to it. Ryobi Technologies avers that no response is required to the allegations contained in paragraph 29 of plaintiff's Complaint that pertain to defendants other than it.

38. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 30 of plaintiff's Complaint, as they pertain to it. Ryobi Technologies avers that no response is required to the allegations contained in paragraph 30 of plaintiff's Complaint that pertain to defendants other than it.

39. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 31 of plaintiff's Complaint, as they pertain to it. Ryobi Technologies avers that no response is required to the allegations contained in paragraph 31 of plaintiff's Complaint that pertain to defendants other than it.

40. In response to paragraph 32 of plaintiff's Complaint, Ryobi Technologies incorporates its responses to all other paragraphs in plaintiff's Complaint as if fully set forth.

41. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 33 (including sub-paragraphs a - e) of plaintiff's Complaint, as they pertain to it. Ryobi Technologies avers that no response is required to the allegations contained in paragraph 33 of plaintiff's Complaint that pertain to defendants other than it.

42. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 34 of plaintiff's Complaint, as they pertain to it. Ryobi Technologies avers that no response is required to the

allegations contained in paragraph 34 of plaintiff's Complaint that pertain to defendants other than it.

43. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 35 of plaintiff's Complaint, as they pertain to it. Ryobi Technologies avers that no response is required to the allegations contained in paragraph 35 of plaintiff's Complaint that pertain to defendants other than it.

44. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 36 (including sub-paragraphs a and b) of plaintiff's Complaint, as they pertain to it. Ryobi Technologies avers that no response is required to the allegations contained in paragraph 36 of plaintiff's Complaint that pertain to defendants other than it.

45. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 37 of plaintiff's Complaint, as they pertain to it. Ryobi Technologies avers that no response is required to the allegations contained in paragraph 37 of plaintiff's Complaint that pertain to defendants other than it.

46. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 38 of plaintiff's Complaint, as they pertain to it. Ryobi Technologies avers that no response is required to the allegations contained in paragraph 38 of plaintiff's Complaint that pertain to defendants other than it.

47. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 39 of plaintiff's Complaint, as they pertain to it. Ryobi Technologies avers that no response is required to the allegations contained in paragraph 39 of plaintiff's Complaint that pertain to defendants other than it.

48. In response to paragraph 40 of plaintiff's Complaint, Ryobi Technologies incorporates its responses to all other paragraphs in plaintiff's Complaint as if fully set forth.

49. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 41 of plaintiff's Complaint, as they pertain to it. Ryobi Technologies specifically denies that it marketed, sold or distributed the subject mower. Ryobi Technologies avers that no response is required to the allegations contained in paragraph 41 of plaintiff's Complaint that pertain to defendants other than it.

50. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 42 of plaintiff's Complaint, as they pertain to it. Ryobi Technologies avers that no response is required to the allegations contained in paragraph 42 of plaintiff's Complaint that pertain to defendants other than it.

51. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 43 of plaintiff's Complaint.

52. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 44 of plaintiff's Complaint, as they pertain to it. Ryobi Technologies avers that no response is required to the allegations contained in paragraph 44 of plaintiff's Complaint that pertain to defendants other than it.

53. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 45 of plaintiff's Complaint, as they pertain to it. Ryobi Technologies avers that no response is required to the allegations contained in paragraph 45 of plaintiff's Complaint that pertain to defendants other than it.

54. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 46 of plaintiff's Complaint, as they pertain to it. Ryobi Technologies avers that no response is required to the

allegations contained in paragraph 46 of plaintiff's Complaint that pertain to defendants other than it.

55. In response to paragraph 47 of plaintiff's Complaint, Ryobi Technologies incorporates its responses to paragraphs 1-46 as if fully set forth.

56. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 48 (including sub-paragraphs a and b) of plaintiff's Complaint, as they pertain to it. Ryobi Technologies avers that no response is required to the allegations contained in paragraph 48 of plaintiff's Complaint that pertain to defendants other than it.

57. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 49 of plaintiff's Complaint, as they pertain to it. Ryobi Technologies avers that no response is required to the allegations contained in paragraph 49 of plaintiff's Complaint that pertain to defendants other than it.

58. In response to paragraph 50 of plaintiff's Complaint, Ryobi Technologies incorporates its responses to all other paragraphs in plaintiff's Complaint as if fully set forth.

59. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 51 of plaintiff's Complaint, as they pertain to it. Ryobi Technologies avers that no response is required to the allegations contained in paragraph 51 of plaintiff's Complaint that pertain to defendants other than it.

60. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in paragraph 52 of plaintiff's Complaint, as they pertain to it. Ryobi Technologies avers that no response is required to the allegations contained in paragraph 52 of plaintiff's Complaint that pertain to defendants other than it.

61. Ryobi Technologies denies the allegations contained in the unnumbered paragraphs of plaintiff's Complaint, except that it consents to, and joins in, plaintiff's request for trial by jury.

For the reasons set forth herein, Ryobi Technologies, Inc., respectfully requests that this action be dismissed and that it be awarded its costs and expenses incurred in defending this litigation.

**RYOBI TECHNOLOGIES, INC.**

By Counsel

/s/

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**C E R T I F I C A T E**

I hereby certify that on the 25th day of October, 2013, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which will send notification of such filing to the following:

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